

JAMES GORDON BENNETT.  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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VOLUME XXXI, No. 85

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broadway Street. THE CHERRY COUGH—COMEDY. LUCY RUSSELL'S NEW YORK THEATRE, Nos. 73 and 75 Broadway—VALIANT VALENTINE.

WOODS THEATRE, Broadway, opposite the St. Nicholas Hotel—EAST LYNCH.

GEORGE CHRISTY'S OLD SCHOOL OF MINISTERS, BROADWAY, between Broadway and Nassau Streets, 2nd and 4th West Twenty-fourth Street—MISS BLOOMER AT THE SCENE.

SAN FRANCISCO MINISTERS, 535 Broadway, opposite Broadway Hotel—CHRISTOPHER SHERIDAN, DANCER, AT THE SCENE.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 211 Broadway—REV. J. P. FOSTER, D.D., AT THE SCENE.

BRANTLEY MINISTERS, Broadway, 42nd Street, at the corner of Broadway—REV. J. P. FOSTER, D.D., AT THE SCENE.

BOULEVARD OPERA HOUSE, Broadway, between Broadway and Nassau Streets—REV. J. P. FOSTER, D.D., AT THE SCENE.

NEW YORK MUSICAL INSTITUTION, 618 Broadway, between Broadway and Nassau Streets—REV. J. P. FOSTER, D.D., AT THE SCENE.

GRAND ORGAN CONCERT—At South Baptist Church, Twenty-fifth Street, between Broadway and Nassau Streets.

FINE ARTS INSTITUTE, 625 Broadway—KELLOGG'S GREAT PAINTING THE QUEENLY PRINCESS—"RELIC OF THE PAST."

CLINTON HALL, Astor Place—A COMPARATIVE VIEW OF THE FRANCHISE AND PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND PROPERTY—Lecture by Rev. J. P. FOSTER, D.D., at 7 o'clock.

New York, Monday, March 26, 1866.

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE COUNTRY.

Advertisements for the WEEKLY HERALD must be handed in before ten o'clock every Wednesday evening. Its circulation among the enterprising mechanics, farmers, merchants, manufacturers and gentlemen throughout the country is increasing very rapidly. Advertisements inserted in the WEEKLY HERALD will thus be seen by a large portion of the active and energetic people of the United States.

THE NEWS.

Palm Sunday was duly observed yesterday in the Catholic and Episcopal churches, according to rules prescribed by each denomination.

The services of Holy Week will be generally performed in the various churches with all possible magnificence. At St. Patrick's cathedral they will commence on Thursday and Friday at ten o'clock and on Saturday at seven o'clock in the morning, and the office of the "Tenebrae" will be chanted at half-past four o'clock on the afternoons of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

In the Fifth Avenue Baptist church an explanation was made of the reasons why Dr. Vermilyea failed to preach his sermon on "Baptist Exclusiveness," much to the interest of a large audience. A full report of it will be found elsewhere.

The closing exercises of the soldiers' depot in Howard street took place yesterday afternoon. Addresses were delivered by a number of clergymen. Rev. Dr. Strong, in his address, stated that thirty thousand men were received at the institution within the past year, and several thousand sick taken care of; that two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of soldiers' funds had been kept for them without losing one of them, and that the ladies' committee had contributed thirty thousand dollars in funds, fifteen thousand garments, numerous delicacies and personal services to the benefit of the institution since its commencement.

We experienced yesterday some singular weather. At daybreak yesterday morning the sky was perfectly clear, betokening a fair day. In two hours afterwards a heavy snow had fallen and the mercury in the thermometer had fallen considerably. Shortly after the sun came out very brightly and warmly, and before night the snow had entirely disappeared. About eight o'clock in the evening it again began to grow cold, and by eleven P. M. the thermometer indicated as low as twenty-three above zero. By twelve o'clock it had fallen another degree, and at two o'clock this morning stood at twenty-four degrees above zero.

Our Albany despatches open up a view of the conspiracy of the ring of attorneys, which has succeeded the defeat of the Albany. It appears that the object of this clique, in their efforts to pass the pending bill for building a new capitol, is to create a vast corruption fund, to be hypothesized for the manipulation of the approaching constitutional convention, so as to concentrate a executive patronage and the entire judiciary of the State by appointment in their hands.

Our present correspondent intimates that the people of Canada are beginning to understand the purpose of their authorities in organizing and keeping up the excitement regarding Fenian invasion. They comprehend that the Fenian invasion was a myth, and the excitement created by it is a means to advance confederation schemes and an antidote to annexation tendencies. At the same time the friends of confederation continue to inform the people of its advantages, and the provisions of the proposed measures are kept constantly before them by the official organs of the government. We publish this morning an interesting sketch of these provisions, showing what confederation really means, the proposed constitution of the Federated Parliament, its authority, &c.

We publish this morning an interesting account of the great bend of the Columbia region of Oregon, the area of country lying between the Cascade and Rocky mountains. This valley is one of the great mining districts of the West, and our correspondent gives a full account of the several more important mines, their richness, accessibility, the degree to which they have been worked, and various other useful information regarding them and of interest generally.

Our Brownsville correspondent, under date of March 16, sends us some matters of commercial interest on the Rio Grande border, growing out of the late imperial edict declaring Matamoros no longer a free port and the recently enacted cattle law of this country. The merchants of Matamoros have seriously complained of the effect of the edict on their trade and business, and strenuous efforts are making to have the order rescinded. The new cattle law of the United States is said to injuriously affect the people in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and other Southwestern States. The discussion among the liberal circles in Mexico continued, and one of the disputes prevalent had led to a fight between Garcia and Canales, in which Garcia was defeated, and

several of his men killed and captured. The officers of the Emperor's army on the Rio Grande freely express the opinion that the French troops will not be withdrawn by Napoleon until Maximilian's empire is a fixed fact. We publish this morning some additional particulars of the wonderful appearance of a volcanic island in the Archipelago. The story, fully vouched for as true by United States and other officials who were eye witnesses to the startling phenomenon, is stranger than any fiction conceivable, and the phenomenon itself is one of the most remarkable ever known. The island has risen from under the sea, not suddenly, but gradually; and the water for miles around was boiling and steaming at a tremendous rate. While this island was thus gradually growing that of Santorin, near by, appears to have been disappearing. A gentleman who landed on the new island found it to be of coal or lava, and still so hot that eggs which he discovered there were cooked hard. Among other curious accompanying phenomena is the appearance on the surface of the ocean, as good as new, of a vessel which was sunk ten years ago. The island is several miles in circumference, and, being of volcanic origin, it is supposed will disappear as soon as the force of the eruption is expended.

At the Fenian headquarters, Union square, nothing of any special importance transpired yesterday. Business was carried on through the day, as usual. The Central Council are still in secret session, and the money and arms continue to flow in. A new circle was formed at 49 Prince street, endorsing the policy of Stephens and O'Mahony. Patrick Finnelly, No. 235 East Fourteenth street, was stabbed last evening by unknown man, whom he detected in his house under suspicious circumstances. Mr. J. P. Moore, who lost a large amount of bonds on Friday night, has recovered and identified the box in which they were contained, but it had in it none of the valuables when found.

The Financial Problem—How It Can Be Solved.

The question of finance is one of the most difficult subjects which our public men have to grapple with at this time. Next to the restoration of the Southern States it is the most important problem that is to be solved at present. Its final solution hinges, to a great extent, upon that of reconstruction, and depends, in a great measure, on the action of Congress in regard to the latter. But, with all the difficulties surrounding it, with all the obstacles which now seem to lie in the way, all that is necessary to enable the country to steer clear of breakers, and secure an early return to a specie basis, is for those who are called upon to legislate upon the question to exercise a little common sense. Gold is now rapidly declining, and greenbacks appreciating in value, from the natural results of the laws of trade, and any attempt to hasten them, either by legislation in Congress or contraction by the Secretary of the Treasury, will, in the end, delay rather than hasten the return to specie payments. Nor will the plan of forcing resumption of specie payments by withdrawing the greenbacks and funding them into bonds accomplish the object. It will interfere and clog the business of the country without securing the object aimed at. We cannot resume specie payments as long as our purchases abroad exceed our exports to the extent that they have for the last three years. One great cause for the fall of gold at this time is the large amount of cotton which is being shipped, which reduces the demand for gold to pay for its indebtedness. The legislation at Washington may bring about a fall in the metal now and then, through the simple fact that the brokers in Wall street, acting upon the belief that it must go down, manage to lower the quotations, but this is only temporary and is liable to a reaction the moment that the flurry is over. But let the country raise and send to Europe sufficient cotton, or any other product, to more than pay for our purchases abroad, and there will be no longer a foreign demand for gold, and specie payments will come in spite of legislation.

This fact, we think, is of itself the great key to the solution of our present financial problem. If the members of Congress can tell when we shall export cotton and other products sufficient to pay our debts and our purchases abroad, they can then fix the day when we can resume specie payments, and all attempts to force it sooner than that will only bring upon us disaster as a punishment for our folly. The restoration of the South, in order that capital may be invested for the development of that section, and to increase the supply of the great staple, cotton, is, therefore, one of the most important steps towards a resumption of specie payments. Instead of withdrawing the greenbacks and forcing specie payments against the natural laws of trade, all legislation on this subject should be based on the laws of commerce. It was this course that enabled England to resume specie payments after the war with Napoleon. It took that nation several years to reach a specie basis, but if the radicals in Congress will only permit the country to be restored, we can, beyond a doubt, reach specie payments in one or two years without any contraction of the non-interest-bearing notes. All that is necessary for Congress to do on this question is to decide when it is probable that the exports of products will be equal in value to our imports, and fix that as the time when specie payments shall be resumed. Then make the greenbacks redeemable in coin on demand at the Treasury and Sub-Treasuries throughout the country. In addition to this enact a law compelling the national banks to redeem their currency in greenbacks, and you have a complete system, which will adapt itself to the demands of trade and commerce, and prevent a rapid inflation of currency or sudden depreciation of values. The greenbacks will then be to this country what the notes of the Bank of England are to that. The notes of that bank are as good as gold the world over, and there is no reason why our government greenbacks may not reach the same standard.

In order to make this system complete it would no doubt be necessary to make the New York bank clearing house a sort of auxiliary to the government, a controlling board over the currency, which could, like the Bank of England, hold in check the banks of the country. In this manner a perfect system could be formed that, in a short time, would, with the developments of our commerce, make this country, instead of England, the financial centre of the world. Specie payment reached in this way would be permanent, and it could be accomplished without disastrous effect upon the business of the country. Why will not Congress drop its ruinous contraction schemes, and legislate in a common sense way and in accordance with the natural laws on this subject? They will find it, in the end, the shortest and most expeditious road to specie payments, while that of returning to a coin basis on the theory of contraction will prove a delusive, dangerous and costly experiment. All efforts to control values by legislation, contrary to the natural laws on this subject, will have the same effect that the efforts to regulate the

price of gold by legislation during the war did. It will make matters worse instead of better. The people do not want the greenbacks withdrawn. They are the most popular currency and the most convenient that we ever had in this country. Nor will they be likely to look with favor upon any movement which will deprive them of government notes as the circulating medium. The fact that they will be obliged to pay an additional tax of some twenty-seven millions of dollars annually to pay the interest on the bonds into which the legal tenders are funded will add to the unpopularity of the movement. Nor will they be inclined to accept this policy any more cheerfully when they find that all this is done to benefit the national banks—a system inaugurated for political purposes. We trust that the Senate, in view of these facts, will consider long and well before it approves the wild contraction schemes which the financial tinkers are pressing.

The Connecticut Election.

The approaching Connecticut election (Monday next) has awakened an extraordinary degree of public interest on all sides in regard to the issue pending between the two parties and the probable result. The question is, strangely enough, which party is the administration party, or which of the two candidates for Governor, General Hawley or Mr. English, is the administration candidate.

In support of General Hawley Messrs. E. B. Owen and Wareham Griswold, of Hartford, published a card, in which they say that, accompanied by the General and introduced by Senator Foster, they waited the other day upon the President, and had a full, free and satisfactory conversation with him; that in the course of this conversation he said "that it is too late in the day to ask him if he desires the success of the Union party, in view of all the occurrences of the last four or five years," and "that he does desire it," that "whatever differences of opinion he has with members of that party, he expects to fight out within the lines of that organization," that "he has appointed none but members of that party to office, and expects to continue in that course," that "he adheres firmly to the principles of that party as laid down by its last national convention," and that "there had been no interference whatever, by any member of the administration, so far as he knew, with the canvass in Connecticut."

This is good evidence in support of General Hawley and the republicans. But the correspondence which has since appeared between Mr. Cleveland, Postmaster at Hartford, and the President is claimed by the democrats to be equally good in support of Mr. English. In this correspondence Mr. Cleveland says:—"I am opposing the election of General Joseph R. Hawley, who openly disapproves of your veto and your 22d of February speech, and declines to support your policy as opposed to the radical majority in Congress," and that "if my political action is not satisfactory to you I beg you to receive my resignation as Postmaster in this city." The President replies:—"Your political action in upholding my measures and policy is approved. Your resignation, therefore, is not accepted, but is herewith returned."

Thus, then, stands the case on both sides. The President desires the success of the Union party by which he was elected; but he approves the course of the Hartford Postmaster in upholding the measures and policy of the administration, and on this ground declines to receive his resignation. The democrats infer from this that, as Cleveland opposes Hawley because Hawley opposes the late veto, the President is in favor of the election of English. As we understand the President's position it is this:—He approves the Hartford Postmaster in supporting his policy and his veto, and so refuses his resignation, although said Postmaster opposes Hawley's election; but in spite of Hawley Mr. Johnson still adheres to the republican party.

Perhaps something may occur to-day or to-morrow at Washington which will give this Connecticut contest a more definite shape before the end of the week. As it stands at present if the republicans hold their ground it will be because they still claim that there is and is to be no rupture between them and the administration, and if they are defeated it will be because of the position of General Hawley with the radicals in opposition to the President's reconstruction policy. On either side the balance of power will come from the republican conservatives who believe in the policy of the administration, and a change of two thousand in the vote of 1864 will revolutionize the State.

THE STATE OF TEXAS AND A PEACE PROCLAMATION.—A convention is being held in Austin, Texas, for the purpose of adopting measures to fully reinstate the State as a member of the Union. These measures are opposed by some original secessionists, who seem to have sufficient influence to delay their adoption. The President of the United States has addressed a despatch to Governor Hamilton, in which he states that "it is of the utmost importance that the proceedings of the convention should be marked by prudence, loyalty, and a desire to vindicate the constitution and laws of the United States. He also states that a great deal depends upon the proceedings of the convention with regard to the admission of members of Congress from the Southern States. He expresses the hope that loyal representatives will finally be "admitted to take their seats in the Capitol of the nation from all the States."

The people of Texas could not have a better or more delicate invitation to return to their allegiance to the Union. Texas was the last refuge of the Southern army, and it was there the most hostile spirits of the South rebelled upon the general smash-up of the rebellion. Those rebels who did not proceed to Mexico to assist the usurpation of Maximilian remained within the borders of Texas, and we now see their hostility to the Union in the tardy proceedings of the present State Convention. We cannot believe that these malcontents represent the real sentiment of the people of Texas, whose struggles for independence and annexation were too severe to be readily forgotten. Texas is now the only State that has not rescinded the ordinance of secession, repudiated the rebel debt, acknowledged the abolition of slavery, and adopted the other pre-requisites necessary to restoration. She is the only State that is practically out in the cold—but not out of the Union—within the meaning of the policy of President Johnson. Let her present herself, as her sister Southern States have, through her State Convention, as a member of the Union, satisfied of her secession heresies, and will

to acknowledge the constitution as it stands. She is the last erring sister to be restored to the family of the Union, and her return will be signalized, we have but little doubt, by a Presidential proclamation announcing that peace prevails over a restored and firmly reunited country. The people of Texas and the present State Convention will act unwisely towards themselves and unjustly towards their Southern brethren if they do not adopt these suggestions and come back promptly and joyously into the national fold.

FRAUDS UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE LAW.

It was to be expected that fraud in various shapes would result from the operations of the Internal Revenue law. It was merely an experiment in the beginning, and of course had to be improved by degrees, and will still have to be remodelled by each successive Congress until it approaches perfection. Under the best of circumstances its operation must be more or less obnoxious and demoralizing. Even in England, where the income tax has been in effect for a long time, it is still far from perfect. Its demoralizing tendency is noted by Mr. Gladstone, as developed in the many false returns of income, which, the former authority states, have in many cases been the first downward step of the business man towards mercantile dishonor. If the temptation to make false returns is so great in England, where the tax is only two and a half per cent, how much greater is it here, where we have to pay five and ten per cent on our incomes, and where the machinery for collecting the internal revenue is quite new and by no means free from corruption? The case of the distillery frauds now on trial shows how the government can be defrauded by its own officials, one of whom admits in his testimony that he allowed the government brands to be used on barrels of whiskey which he knew had not paid the tax, and admitted further that he had been bribed to do so. This, we presume, is but one case in a thousand. It is manifestly the duty of Congress, in amending the Internal Revenue law, which forms part of their duty this session, to remove all the obnoxious portions of it, and so frame it as to leave as little temptation to fraud as possible. It has been recommended by the commission, for instance, to exempt from taxation on incomes a thousand dollars, instead of six hundred, as the law now stands. This would be a great relief to people with small incomes, who can barely afford to pay five per cent of their earnings. It is also, we believe, in contemplation to allow a deduction on taxable income of fifty dollars for every minor in a family. This is not an objectionable amendment. While it is true that the government must have a revenue, and a large one, for many years to come, in order to liquidate our heavy national debt, and that the revenue must come from taxation, judicious legislation might relieve the mode of its collection of many of its most obnoxious features. We have gathered a good deal of experience in this matter. Even the frauds occasionally brought to light teach us many ways whereby the law can be rendered less onerous, more equal upon all classes, and the returns more profitable. We trust that Congress will give due attention to the revision of the Internal Revenue law when it comes before them for legislation, and that future Congresses will continue to improve upon it until put into proper shape.

ADVICE TO THE PEOPLE.—Don't let your "portable property" lie around loose. The recent extensive bond robberies were the inevitable results of carelessness in this respect. One wealthy man put millions of dollars in his safe, or on top of it, or behind it, every night, and hardly thought to turn the key in his office door. What wonder that he was robbed? Another rich gentleman in Madison avenue put a fortune in a little tin box, as if to make it handy for thieves, and the thieves came and carried it away. The real wonder in both cases would arise if the men had not been robbed; yet these robberies get the city a bad reputation as a centre of villainy, and in the highest degree demoralizing; for in all such cases the crime is finally compounded with the rogue. He not only goes scot-free from justice, but, on condition of giving up the larger part of the property, is permitted to keep the rest. Thus his ingenuity comes to have as legitimate a reward as if it were an honest one, and this tends to break down in the popular mind the distinctions between right and wrong. The remedy lies with the owners of the property. In the first place, men should not keep by them such large sums in coin or bonds—that is, in current money. These amounts in registered bonds, though stolen, would have been worthless to the thieves. In the second place, if men, to avoid the little trouble of registration, will keep coupon bonds, let them at least take common care of their property.

POST OFFICE IRREGULARITIES.—The complaints which we daily receive from our country subscribers show that an extensive system of pilfering prevails in the provincial post offices or en route. One subscriber in Portsmouth, Ohio, writes to us that since his subscription was paid only half his papers have been received; and as the paper is addressed to his letter box in that town it would seem as if there was a screw loose in the management of that particular office. One thing is certain: that the paper is regularly mailed to the subscriber's address, and that the fault does not lie with our clerks. We cite this from a large number of other complaints because the evidence appears so positive that it is to the negligence or dishonesty of the Post Office subordinates that the non-delivery of the paper is to be attributed. It is surprising that, notwithstanding the immense sums expended upon our postal service, we can insure nothing like certainty or regularity in its operations. In Great Britain and France the non-receipt of a letter or paper, properly directed, is a thing unheard of. Even in Spain, where the administration of public affairs is in other departments no model for imitation, that of the Post Office exhibits a conscientious regard for the efficiency of the service. We have heard of instances in which the letters of American travellers have followed them from city to city, until they were finally hunted up by the agents of the department. Until we can secure something like the same zeal and efficiency in our own postal arrangements the business of the country never can be satisfactorily carried on. To arrive at it we must begin by making the country postmasters independent of political influences and pay them well. It cannot be expected that men who are so miserably remunerated, and who are subject to removal without any change of administration, will care much about the honest and efficient discharge of their duties.

DANGERS AHEAD FOR GAS MONOPOLISTS.

There seems to be a strong disposition on the part of the Legislature to overhaul the monstrous system of fraud and imposition to which the public are subjected by the various gas monopolies that have grown up under its protection. We trust that the feeling will result in some practical measure of relief. The sense of oppression produced by the burden is becoming so strong, and is exciting such a very general expression of indignation, that it will no longer be safe for the members of the Legislature to turn a deaf ear to it. They will find that when they again present themselves to their constituents their course in reference to it will exercise a very material influence on their political prospects. The monopolies will, of course, strain every effort to defeat the measures that will be introduced to control their proceedings. Money will be lavishly spent and political influence be as freely exercised in their interest. They will find out, however, before long that it would have been better to have listened to the just complaints of the consumers than to have forced them into this conflict. A compromise might have protected them from a radical revision of the whole system. Now, however, it is too late, and they will have to trust to their means of corruption to defeat the measures that are in contemplation. Their efforts in this way, however, even if successful, would not secure them in the possession of their ill-gotten profits. Science is enlisting itself on the side of their opponents, and threatens a more effectual remedy for their oppression than any which the Legislature can afford. It is now pretty certain that the new magnesium light will eventually supersede gas. When it was first discovered the clearness of the substance from which it is produced seemed to forbid any hope of its general employment. "It is now ascertained," says a scientific journal, "that the ocean contains one hundred and sixty thousand cubic miles of magnesium—a quantity which would cover the entire surface of the globe, both sea and land, to a thickness of more than eight feet. Three years ago all the chemists who had obtained magnesium had probably not obtained an ounce among them. One year ago its price was more than five hundred dollars a pound. Now, owing to improvements recently introduced, magnesium wire is sold at six cents a foot." If these statements be accurate—and they are made on apparently satisfactory data—there is reason to believe that in another year or two the cost of the light produced from magnesium will be very far below that of gas. As to the superiority of the light itself there can be no question. It is purer and more intense than that of the flame of any artificial light that has as yet been discovered, does not alter the natural colors of things, and can be regulated with the utmost ease. By the adaptation of proper mechanical contrivances, some progress towards which has already been made, it can be rendered available for domestic purposes without any risk of its affecting the sight. Its adaptability for street illumination has been equally demonstrated. Once, therefore, the economical question is solved to the satisfaction of capitalists we would not give much for the stock of the companies that now monopolize the lighting of our cities.

Literary Notices.

"Geological Sketches," by L. Agassiz, is the title of a neat volume issued from the press of Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, of Boston. It contains ten articles prepared from notes of extemporaneous lectures delivered by the author, arranged as were those published under the name of "Methods of Study" from the same pen. The present production constitutes a very accessible and useful addition to the primary works which instruct us in the peculiar branch of science of which it treats.

"Saint Martin's Summer," by Anne H. M. Brewster, is printed by Ticknor & Fields, of Boston. The talented authoress relates her experiences during a tour in Southern Italy in a series of graphic spirited letters which cannot fail to convey instruction while they amuse and entertain the reader.

Fine Arts. Mr. Buxall, of the Royal Academy, has been appointed Director of the National Gallery of Art, London, in the room of the late Sir Charles Eastlake. Sir Charles himself appointed Mr. Buxall to act for him during his illness. The new director has spent his life in the study of the works of the old painters, and enjoys the highest reputation as a judicious art critic. As a painter he has been represented, but not frequently, on the walls of the Academy, and is deeply versed in the literature of art.

The fine collection of works of art exhibited at the Luxembourg, Paris, is attracting increased attention, and although the season is now a long way from the hands of the "revue" city, it bids fair to draw large numbers from the crowds who go to the Louvre. Among the pictures to be seen there are:—"The Roman Revolt," of Couture; "The Last Victims of the Reign of Terror," of Muller; "La Barriere de Clichy," of Henri Vernes; the splendid "View of Venice," of Felix Bracquemond; "The Carrying Off of Amymone," by Felix Henry Giacomotti, described as a most lovely painting. There are also some sketches at the Luxembourg, including the "Ariston," of Millet; Joutroy's "Young Girl Confessing Her First Love to Venus," a life like bronze, by Duret, of the "Napoli in Banching."

A full length portrait of M. Ponsard, the French dramatist, is to be placed in one of the apartments of the Hotel de Ville, of the town of Vienna, at the expense of the municipality. The equestrian memorial statue of Manchester (England) is to cost £2,500. The sum of £4,400 has been subscribed. It has been resolved to devote £1,250 of the balance to the endowment of the Chair of Political Economy in Owens College, on the condition that its professor deliver each session a course of weekly lectures, to which any of the public primary school teachers in Manchester and Salford shall have free admission.

The Duke of Nemours, accompanied by the Princess, his daughter, visited the Hildebrandt gallery in the Institute of Painters in Water Colors, London, the other day, and both were highly pleased with the artistic effect and truthfulness of the works exhibited.

The Metropolitan Fire Department.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.  
New York, March 25, 1866.  
The report of the fire which occurred yesterday (Saturday) evening at the corner of Thirty-fourth street and second avenue, published in the HERALD of this morning, contains no mention of the facts that the flames had made considerable headway before any members of the Metropolitan Fire Department reached the ground, and that they were considerably further during the delay which occurred in getting up steam by the company. Parties residing in Thirty-fourth street, who saw the flames issuing from the building, entered the house and looked at the seat of the fire, ascertaining that a few pails of water well directed would have done it at first. They could not find any water in the little cistern, so they left, and were at their homes, a block distant, before the firemen arrived. After they did arrive it was safe to say that from fifteen to twenty minutes elapsed before they had steam up, and a longer space before they had water on. The matter elicited much comment in the neighborhood during Saturday evening and to-day. Is the delicate signal apparatus of our new and excellently intended force too complex for the purposes intended? Is it not inefficiently worked? Is discipline being relaxed in the organization, or are any of its paid members inclined to "lay off"? I should regret exceedingly, sir, if you or any other citizen should have to answer either question in the affirmative.

A FRIEND TO A PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Personal Intelligence.  
General P. Edward Connor, Salt Lake City, commanding Rocky Mountain District; General John A. Murrell, commanding California District; General J. A. Moore, U. S. A.; General W. B. Egan, U. S. A.; General M. H. H. Rogers, Kansas; G. S. Long, Cincinnati; Commandant W. S. Graham, U. S. N.; Judge William H. H. Lewis, U. S. C. T. S.; General J. S. Smith and wife, Pa., are at the Metropolitan.

WASHINGTON, March 25, 1866.

TROUBLE IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON RECONSTRUCTION.

The Joint Committee of Fifteen, or at least the House wing of that important body, is said to be in a painful state of insubordination. Some of the most formidable talkers in the committee are clamorous for reporting a resolution admitting the Tennessee delegation at once, without any further delay and report. The obnoxious portion of the last resolution reported from the committee was only adopted by a majority of a majority of one, and that is obliged to work steadily and patiently, one to keep the figures tight. Meanwhile the fears of Thad's followers in the committee are being worked upon by the conservative members of the House and by libelous tales about the waning power of the party in their own districts. They are especially anxious about the result of the Connecticut election. If General Hawley should happen to be beaten there, there would not be a member of the committee left standing, except, perhaps, old Thad. The admission of Tennessee hangs upon the election in Connecticut.

The return of Senator Howard will probably insure public notice of another batch of testimony before the Reconstruction Committee, including that of Robert M. Lee, and it is said a report will be made during this week.

ANTICIPATED VETO OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL.

The contemplated veto of the Civil Rights bill by the President has been the subject of much street corner and hotel lobby talk to-day, but has failed to create any excitement or provoke more than a passing interest. Everybody concurs in the opinion to-day that the veto will be sweeping in its character, and leave little or no chance for change or modification by Congress. Hon. Henry Stanbury, of Ohio, is receiving the credit for writing up the legal objections to the act. Politicians and wiseacres have been quite busily engaged in relating a diversity of opinions as to the probable effect of a veto upon the people of the North.

The future movements of political combatants will be in a great measure controlled by this, and it remains to be seen whether the conservative radicals will be leaped over the fence, and join the radicals, who are already commencing to set up a howl. Many of this latter class are consoling themselves with the notion that another veto will strengthen their ranks by a number of the weak-kneed thus brought between two fires. In the maze of other matters and more important present interests the constitutional amendment has disappeared altogether; but it is likely to show itself again. If the action of the President in the Civil Rights case is realized this will bring up two points of conflict and lead to some obstinate fighting. It is also probable, instead of taking up the Civil Rights bill immediately, if brought to the alternative, the radicals will prefer to try their hand further on the representation question, and reserve the bold movement of an attempt to carry the Reconstruction over the head of the President as a kind of finishing blow, if the attack in the first case succeeds. Very few, however, believe either can be passed over a veto; and Senator Clark, among others, admits the Civil Rights bill cannot. The conservatives are mobilizing their forces by their organization of a committee which meets for deliberation on the important topics which necessitated its existence. An effort also is being made to get up a new party composed of themselves, war democrats and as many of the democrats as will as they can persuade to accept their doctrine.

THE CASE OF SENATOR STOCKTON.

It is here well understood that the opposition vote in the case of Hon. J. F. Stockton, to be or not to be a United States Senator from New Jersey, was the result of party distrust and requirements of policy. There can be no legal question as to a Senator's right to be elected by joint or concurrent action of a majority of the members to establish and act upon the plurality rule or any other rule in the selection of Senators for Congress. While it would be wiser and safer to be governed in all cases by the majority rule, no one can deny to them the absolute right to decide for themselves a rule of action without interference or dictation from any quarter. Of all his opponents Mr. Sumner seems more disinterested, and reports are in the street that he will move a reconsideration at the earliest possible moment, or in some way reopen the controversy. But the time has rather gone by for this. Had some republican favored Mr. Stockton's claim to the seat declared at the time the vote was taken that, although he believed him entitled to it, he was irreconcilably opposed to his holding or holding it by his own vote, and at the same time announced his determination to change his if Mr. Stockton insisted on voting, the objection would have been plausibly consistent and effective.

THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBED INTO MAKING AFFIRMATIONS.

Cases have recently come to light in which the President has been swindled in some of his appointments by the radicals. Several Congressmen, known to be blind followers of Thaddeus Stevens, had shrewd enough to keep their names off the record of votes on all important measures, have secured good things for their friends by professing friendship for the President. Once or twice this has been operated only to the real friends of the President, and has been hailed by the country press as an evidence that the President was swindled, and that he was being deceived and "go back on his friends," as the phrase is. This state of affairs has brought a number of lately deposed postmasters to Washington to set themselves right before the department and the President, and get, if possible, a reversal of the decision which deposed them. The action of the department in all these cases proves that the safest course for government officials is to preserve a clear record as supporters of the President's reconstruction and general policy.

IMPORTANT DECISION OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DECISION HAS JUST BEEN RENDERED:—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

SECOND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, March 23, 1866.

Sir:—It appears from your statement that certain persons residing in the so-called Confederate States during the rebellion, and who had a domicile in this State, before the civil war and during its continuance, now come and demand of the government balances which they allege were due and payable to themselves and their heirs and assigns, and the decisions of the Supreme Court justify that opinion. While the war continued claimants in the eye of the law were regarded as hostile characters, and their property as captured property, liable to seizure and confiscation, and the hostile quality attaches to both persons and things until, by the action of Congress or of the Executive, it is declared that the war is at an end, and the contending parties to all the rights of war as against each other, and even as respects neutral nations. (Vide Treaties on International Law, § 5, also Vattel, book 4, chap. 15, § 429. Rose vs. Himel, Branch, p. 272, The Venice, 2 Wallace, p. 235.) We must be governed, says the Chief Justice, by the principle of public law as often announced from the bench, as applicable to civil and international wars that all the people of each State or district in secession against the United States should be regarded as having been returned to peace, and the Legislature and the Executive or otherwise, that relation is thoroughly and permanently changed (case of Mrs. Alexander, Cotton, 2 Wallace, p. 419), and from the moment one State is at war with another it has on general principles a right to seize on or to take the enemy's property taken to its own use or to that of the captors. (Whitman, supra, p. 599; also Val supra, sec. 161, p. 364.) Docts stand upon the same ground in this regard as enemy property. (Vide Hallam on International Law, vol. 3, p. 123, sec. 87; Brown vs. United States, 2 Cranch, p. 140.) The authorities above cited establish the right of the United States to the debts due a rebel estate at the time the war was over. They also prove that in a legal point of view claimants were enemies of the government of the United States. They are, therefore, never having been returned to peace, and always having remained as balances in the Treasury, cannot now be withdrawn by claimants, except in violation of law. For the title of these balances, your debt must be regarded as directed from the original owners, and transferred to the United States. (Vide Wharton, supra, p. 622.) Very respectfully, your obedient servant, G. A. BROADHEAD, Comptroller.

General A. R. Eaton, Comptroller General.

EXPENDITURES OF THE WEEK.